

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13698 031123Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OMB-01

SY-05 IO-10 SAM-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /069 W

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O 031040Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7039

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13698

USIAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT FOR MRS. GALLAGHER AND MRS. DYKES

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION POSED TO HIM LAST NIGHT BY TWO AMERICAN NEWSMEN CONCERNING THE TWO MISSING USIA OFFICERS, PRIME MINISTER KARAMI REPLIED THAT THEY ARE TO BE RELEASED VERY SHORTLY, IMPLYING PERHAPS EVEN DURING THE NIGHT OR TODAY, AS PART OF "A PACKAGE DEAL I HAVE WORKED OUT." BECAUSE THE PRIME MINISTER IS INCLINED TO ISSUE EXCESSIVELY OPTIMISTIC STATEMENTS ON ALL MATTERS IN HOPES OF STABILIZING THE LEBANESE SITUATION, THIS STATEMENT PROBABLY CANNOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE REGARDING TIMING, BUT IT AGAIN GIVES A STRONG INDICATION THAT BOTH MEN ARE ALIVE AND WELL AND LIKELY TO BE RELEASED FAIRLY SOON. THE EMBASSY OF COURSE IS FOLLOWING UP AT ALL LEVELS IN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT BUT SO FAR HAS NOTHING MORE CONCRETE THAN THE PRIMIN'S STATEMENT TO THE TWO NEWSMEN. CURTISS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT13698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0972
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751182/aaaacvdd.tel
Line Count: 51
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS REPORT FOR MRS. GALLAGHER AND MRS. DYKES IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION POSED TO HIM LAST NIGHT BY TWO
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, LE, US, (GALLAGHER, CHARLES D), (DYKES, WILLIAM R)
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006